

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and objections is requested in light of the forgoing amendments and the following comments. Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-40 are pending, with claims 1, 26, 39, and 40 being the independent claims. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7, and 25-39.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 8-10, 13, and 16-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0047624 to Kilgore et al. ("Kilgore").

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 8-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,795,097 to Greiner et al. ("Greiner"). Claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kilgore.

Independent 1 and its Dependent Claims

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4, which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Based at least on their dependence upon claim 1, claims 2, 3, 5, and 8-25 are also allowable.

New Independent Claim 40

New independent claim 40 includes the subject matter of claim 6, including all limitations of the base claim (claim 1), which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Accordingly, new claim 40 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds for rejection and objection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections and objections. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has further questions in connection with this application or believes that personal communication would be helpful in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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